

## Planning Commission Comments from April 8, 2014

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### Downtown Open Space Plan

**Mr. Gibbs** Open Space Plan is vital to general coordination and planning for future development and other issues concerning transportation (private/bus/rail/pedestrian).

Also, for consideration, my suggested, related comments regarding the "poorly" lit downtown sector from east Main to west Main and side streets.

My concern is not only for safety but the opportunity for Durham to present itself better with an ambience at least in well selected locations. I know the Planning Dept will plan, design effective lighting for the proposed open spaces, etc. but I think we, all involved, should look at lighting again from a new perspective. (and GET RID of the yellow sodium lighting for whiter, better light-spread fixtures and lamps - LED-like ?

**Ms. Huff** I was reassured that despite the fact there is no bicycle parking indicated on the plan that in fact it is part of the concept for downtown open space. Nonetheless in a document that goes into such detail as the placement of picnic tables or pergolas, it would be nice to see where bike parking would be within the various park designs.

My other main concern has to do with the plan's heavy reliance on obtaining the railway right of way. I think the City should vigorously pursue obtaining this land, including the pursuit of grant monies and even the condemnation of the property itself for which I understand there are legal precedents.

However since the railway right of way is in dispute, it seems prudent to show on this plan an alternate multipurpose route from the northern part of downtown (The North-South Greenway) to the southern section (American Tobacco Trail).

I fully support this plan and feel it offers an excellent vision for Durham. I urge its adoption.